

Pediatric Emergencies – Pain Management

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Pediatric pain may be difficult to assess because of the child's developmental level. Age appropriate language and pain assessment tools should be used with all children experiencing pain. Non-pharmacologic techniques such as distraction and parental presence should also be considered.

Basic Life Support

1. Assess child's level of pain using age appropriate language, for younger children use a visual analog pain scale.
2. Calmly explain to the child about any procedures that need to be done using age appropriate language, be honest with the child about discomfort.
3. For bony injury properly splint and/or immobilize the affected areas and apply ice as indicated.
4. Use distraction techniques as able (counting, singing, stickers, toys, etc.).
5. Allow parent to ride in the patient transport area of the ambulance if proper safety restraint devices are available to ensure parent safety.
6. Transport.

Advanced Life Support

1. Follow BLS procedures.
2. Establish IV with Normal Saline, KVO.
3. Consider Morphine administration at 0.1 mg/kg slow IVP if no contraindications (airway compromise, apnea, inadequate perfusion).
4. Observe for respiratory depression, administer Naloxone and assist ventilations as necessary.

Key Points/Considerations

Service Director Initials _____

Medical Director Initials _____

Date Approved By KBEMS _____

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